



Update on the Arctic Policy Framework

Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Background

- **Canada has had Arctic policies since the 1940s, most recently the Conservative ‘Canada’s Northern Strategy’ (2011)**
- **This current process was initiated in 2016 through Canada/US Joint statement on Arctic**

What will the Arctic Policy Framework be?

- **Canada committed to co-developing an Arctic Policy Framework with northerners, territorial and provincial governments and First Nations, Inuit and Métis People**
- **The work is a whole-of-government approach for the federal government. It has been coordinated by Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNA), but crosses many federal departments, who are engaged in discussions**

What is Co-Development

Canada has clarified that co-development means that they will broadly seek input and work collaboratively in drafting the document

Canada has also clarified that the final document will be Canada's policy and will be approved by the federal Cabinet, with Canada having the final say on content.

Participants

Canada has committed to developing this policy framework with:

- Territorial governments of Yukon, NWT and Nunavut
- Provincial governments of Manitoba, Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador
- The Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) and other Indigenous organizations and people
- Other stakeholder groups such as industry, youth, and academia – CIRNA has shared some stakeholder information but scope continues to broaden

What will it include?

- The structure of the framework is still being negotiated and confirmed, but the federal government has committed to a chapter for each territory to set out their priorities
- It is also expected that there will be a chapter on Indigenous priorities
- Canada has stated that the APF will address both domestic and international interests in the arctic

What themes will it include?

Discussion Guides for engagement have included the themes of:

- comprehensive Arctic infrastructure
- strong Arctic people and communities
- strong, sustainable and diversified Arctic economies
- Arctic science and Indigenous knowledge
- protecting the environment and preserving Arctic biodiversity
- the Arctic in a global context

NWT Interests

- **Decisions about the North must be made by Northerners – meaningful input from the GNWT as well as NWT Indigenous governments, non-government and industry stakeholders**
- **New policy commitments and funding from Canada, not recycling of existing commitments from other sectoral plans (e.g. Pan-Canadian Framework on Climate Change)**

NWT Interests

- **Significant gaps exist between northern and southern Canadians – the APF should be a tool to support transformational change to improve the lives of Northerners**
- **There should be additional funding allocated to the North to support this transformational change – this should be considered nation building and supported like other nation building efforts**

NWT Interests – Pan Territorial Vision

- **The three territories developed the Pan-Territorial Vision on Sustainable Development to help inform territorial interests including the need for economic opportunities for people in the North to build self-reliance, live in healthy, vibrant, prosperous communities and build capacities to reach their full potential.**

Next Steps

- **Develop a draft NWT chapter incorporating comments and input from NWT Indigenous governments and from stakeholder submissions and sessions.**
- **Continue to advocate for GNWT position in engagement processes and Canada's drafting process.**

Finalization

- The GNWT will share the draft NWT chapter for Indigenous government input, SCOPP input, and Cabinet approval. Current timeframes will see that happening in April 2018. Timeframes are very tight and continue to evolve.
- The federal government is currently scheduled to have a document ready for release in August 2018.